

# Ione, Metaline win sidewalk grants

**IONE** – The Washington State Transportation Improvement Board has awarded sidewalk improvement grants to the towns of Ione and Metaline. These funds will allow construction on sidewalks along State Route 31.

Ione's project, valued at \$100,000, will allow construction of sidewalks along both sides of the highway (2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue) from Houghton Street to Blackwell Street. There also will be a traffic island built in front of the grocery store.

Metaline's project, valued at \$94,000, will allow construction of a sidewalk along the west side of Highway 31 between Town Hall and Metaline Street, along the ball field.

TIB's Director Steve Gorcester said these grants are the results of community planning efforts in North Pend Oreille County, where the public made their project priorities clear.

He said TIB pays up to 100 percent of the cost for towns with populations of 500 and under because any matching funds likely would have to come out of street maintenance.

TIB awarded grants valued at \$70.3 million to 64 agencies at its Nov. 19 meeting in SeaTac. The grant funding comes from the revenue generated by 3 cents of the statewide gas tax as dedicated by

the Legislature to TIB projects.

The board awarded nearly \$8 million to 11 local agencies in Eastern Washington. Deer Park received \$500,000 for a \$769,541 project on East C and D streets.

"This is a productive use of tax dollars that will help alleviate local traffic congestion, add sidewalks and reconstruct failing streets in urban areas and small cities," Board Chair Bill Ganley said.

The Legislature created the TIB to foster state investment in quality local transportation projects. Project funding is awarded on a competitive basis using rating criteria established by the board and usually required local financial participation.

During 2004, local governments across the state completed or are currently building about 500 projects funded in part by TIB grants.